

C A M P A I G N F O R ACCOUNTABILITY

February 22, 2018

By email: publicrecordsrequest@flhealth.gov

Public Records Coordinator
Florida Department of Health
4052 Bald Cypress Way-Bin A02
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1702

Re: Public Records Request

To Whom It May Concern:

Campaign for Accountability (“CfA”) makes this request for public records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics, and including electronic records and information, audiotapes, videotapes, and photographs, pursuant to Fla. Stat. § 119.01 *et seq.*

Specifically, CfA seeks copies of all solicitations, grant proposals, grant agreements, reimbursement requests, and/or purchase orders pertaining to the Florida Pregnancy Support Services Program. This request is for records from July 1, 2015 to the present.

By way of background, the Florida legislature has funded the Florida Pregnancy Support Services Program through the Department of Health since at least 2011.¹ Nearly \$20 million in state funds has been appropriated to the program in that time.² The funding is directed to a contract management provider, which then subcontracts with direct service providers.³ Prior to the beginning of fiscal year 2017, the budget bills indicated that the funding is for “crisis counseling.”⁴ For fiscal years 2017 and 2018, the contract management provider is also authorized by the legislature to use the funding for “wellness services, including but not limited to, high blood pressure screening, flu vaccines, anemia testing, thyroid screening, cholesterol screening, diabetes screening, assistance with smoking cessation, and tetanus vaccines.”⁵ During its 2018 session, the Florida legislature passed a bill to codify the Pregnancy Support Services Program and to provide further guidance to the Department of Health in overseeing it.⁶

If it is your position that any portion of the requested records is exempt from disclosure pursuant to Fla. Stat. §§ 119.071, 119.0711, 119.0712, and 119.0713, please state the basis of the

¹ S.B. 2000 at 83 (Fla. 2011); H.B. 5001 at 89 (Fla. 2012); S.B. 1500 at 94 (Fla. 2013); H.B. 5001 at 95 (Fla. 2014); S.B. 2500 at 85 (Fla. 2015); H.B. 5001 at 96 (Fla. 2016); S.B. 2500 at 99-100 (Fla. 2017).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ S.B. 2000 at 83 (Fla. 2011); H.B. 5001 at 89 (Fla. 2012); S.B. 1500 at 94 (Fla. 2013); H.B. 5001 at 95 (Fla. 2014); S.B. 2500 at 85 (Fla. 2015).

⁵ H.B. 5001 at 96 (Fla. 2016); S.B. 2500 at 99-100 (Fla. 2017).

⁶ H.B. 41 (Fla. 2018).

exemption. Fla. Stat. § 119.07(1)(e). Please explain in writing and with particularity the reasons for any determination that a record is exempt from disclosure. Fla. Stat. § 119.07(1)(f). In the event that a portion of a requested record is properly exempt from disclosure, please redact that portion and produce the remainder of the requested record. Fla. Stat. § 119.07(1)(d). If you deny this request in whole or in part, please specify each exemption on which you are relying to withhold information.

CfA is a non-profit organization and seeks the requested information to inform and educate the public about the state's oversight responsibilities regarding public funding for private organizations. Accordingly, because CfA seeks the information to benefit the general public, we request that the information be provided without charge. If a fee waiver is not available, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$200.

Please promptly acknowledge this request and respond in good faith. Fla. Stat. § 119.07(1)(c). If you foresee any problems in releasing the requested records in whole or in part, please contact me at 202-780-5750.

Finally, I welcome the opportunity to discuss with you whether and to what extent this request can be narrowed or modified to better enable the Department of Health to process it.

If possible, please email the records to me at dstevens@campaignforaccountability.org. If the records are mailed, please send them to: Campaign for Accountability, 611 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, #337, Washington, DC 20003.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan E Stevens", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel E. Stevens
Executive Director